

Regulatory Flexibility

For the first time in EPA's history, we are inviting members of the regulated community to come forward with new ideas, which may actually require us to rewrite the rules. Both Project XL and the CSI are designed to change the rules, if businesses can achieve a superior environmental outcome as a result.

PROJECT XL (eXcellence in Leadership):

Project XL encourages real-world tests of innovative strategies that achieve cleaner environmental results than traditional regulatory approaches. EPA will grant regulatory flexibility in exchange for use of innovative approaches. This flexibility could come in the form of a new interpretation, a streamlined administrative process, or the actual changing of a rule. EPA's New England Office accepts and reviews XL applications on a rolling basis.

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COMMON SENSE INITIATIVE (CSI)

CSI develops cleaner, cheaper, smarter environmental strategies for targeted sectors such as computer and electronics, metal finishing, iron and steel, petroleum refining, and printing. Under the program, EPA's New England Office has facilitated advisory committees that include representatives from industry, national environmental groups, community-based organizations, labor, and federal, state, and local government to examine the full range of environmental requirements that impact these sectors. CSI proposals may result in changes to existing and planned regulations, enforcement programs, reporting/record keeping requirements, or permitting programs.

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"[We] look forward to implementing our [XL project]. In our continuing efforts to be a good corporate citizen and a good steward of the environment, we believe that we can demonstrate that greater environmental benefits can be achieved through regulatory flexibility. Our project to enhance the recycling of both regulated and non-regulated waste streams will not only benefit HADCO, but will be a pilot for our industry to further these environmental benefits."

—Lee Wilmot, Director of SAFETY, Health & Environmental Affairs at HADCO Corp.

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